THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Acts 9:1-9.
Devotional Reading: Romans 5:6-11.

About Face!

Lesson for November 29, 1959

OUTSIDE of what we are told about Jesus in the four Gospels, what event is the most important of all those described in the New Testament? Most intelligent Christians would probably agree on one particular event. If it had not happened, nearly half the New Testament books could not have been written. If it had not happened, over a quarter of the pages of the New Testament would be blank. If it had not happened, Christianity might well have died by strangulation. For there were many who wanted to strangle it in its cradle, and except for one man they might have succeeded.

Dr. Foreman

Why, Saint Paul happened, to be sure! He himself never would say it "happened" and we do not mean that it was a happen-so, a chance occurrence. He believed to his dying day that God planned it, and we may well believe he was right.

Confronted With Christ

Saints do not become saints over night. But they have to start somewhere, somehow. The amazing thing about Paul is that he did an absolute about-face, after a certain day near the city of Damascus in Syria. He was, to put it in one word, converted. That means, in still plainer English, turned around, faced backward from the way the person was going, started in the opposite direction.

It is quite a mistake to think that unless you are converted just as Saint Paul was converted, you haven't been converted at all. That is as silly as saying that if you haven't married a girl exactly like my wife, you aren't really married. As Saint Paul was a unique character any way you look at him, his conversion would be unique too. Further, his situation was decidedly a strange one. He was a professional religious man, engaged in wholesale murder. He was a man who belonged to one of the strictest religious sects of that or any other era, and yet engaged in trying to smash up people who were actually better than he was. He was a man who was passionately devoted to serving God, spending his time making life miserable (when he could not actually kill them) for persons who understood God better than he did.

A man like that, you would think, is not likely to have a "conventional" or average religious experience. Budding Saint Pauls since his time may have had somewhat similar conversions; but John Doe usually has the John Doe type of conversion.

Confronted With Christ

For all that, while much in the circumstances of Paul's conversion (to use a name he did not actually bear till some time later) was peculiar, bizarre or awe-inspiring as you might think it, still basically it was a Christian conversion, with the basic Christian elements plainly in it. First of all, it was confronting Christ. It was a kind of miracle in Paul's case. The miracle may not be so spectacular in other cases but Christ is always there at the beginning of every really Christian life. It may be a Confucian scholar reading a Bible for the first time; it may be an artist attracted by a picture of the Last Supper; it may be a French agnostic, seeing Christ in his wife's character; or a middle-aged man remembering one day how his mother used to pray. Somehow or other, all conversion is based on this meeting between an individual and Christ.

The First Two Questions

Years later Paul told the story of his conversion, to some people who at the moment were bent on killing him. He added something to the story told in Acts (the best manuscripts). He relates two questions, not one, which he asked in that great and awesome hour near Damascus. The first question: "Who art Thou, Lord?" and the second one: "What will you have me to do?" (See Acts 22.) On those two questions hung all his future life. Note three things here: he put his questions now to the highest Authority; he wanted to know all about Jesus; and he put his life at the disposal of his Lord. This is the essence of conversion.

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Avoid The Christmas Rush; Do Your Christmas Mailing Ea

"It's time to start those Christmas mailings!" — Postmaster Wingfield said today. "On the calendar Christmas is a month away, but here in the post office it's Christmas every day from now on."

"Actually, to get all of the Christmas gifts and cards delivered on time is largely a matter of advance planning and preparation that should be done this week," the postmaster pointed out.

"Don't take chances on mailing poorly wrapped packages," he said. "Use sturdy corrugated mailing cartons, plenty of heavy brown wrapping paper, and be sure that every package is tied with strong cord. Cartons containing several gift packages should be well stuffed with tissue or old newspapers to cushion the contents."

He said further, "If you have articles of unusual size or bulk, better check with the post office before attempting to mail them — the limits of size and weight of packages vary, depending on where you mail your packages from."

As an extra precaution against loss, Postmaster Wingfield advised placing both your return address and the recipients address on an extra label inside the carton or package before it is wrapped.

If you use Christmas stickers or seals, put them on the back of your Christmas card envelopes so that they will not conflict with the address on the front.

Before you mail your gift packages be sure that proper postage is firmly affixed to each.

It's always a good idea to place a piece of transparent cellophane tape over the address portion of the label to prevent defacing it in transit. Most important of all, be sure to include the recipients full name, street address, city, zone and state on your labels.

Here's some other helpful suggestions from Postmaster Wingfield. Always send your Christmas cards by First Class mail. They will be delivered quicker, and they'll be forwarded or returned, if it becomes necessary. Christmas cards sent by First Class four cent or seven cent Air Mail may carry written messages; whereas, cards sent with the Third Class three cent postage may only have a written signature and will not be forwarded or returned.

It is always advisable to include your return name and address on each Christmas card envelope, because this helps your friends to keep their mailing lists up-to-date, and insures correction of your own list if the card is returned as undeliverable.

The Postmaster reminds us that the entire Christmas mailing period is primarily a battle against time. If you delay now in getting your Christmas cards and gift packages to the post office, dreaded pile-ups are bound to occur, causing unavoidable slowdowns in deliveries as the holiday approaches.

All mail going long distances should be sent well before December 10. Christmas packages for local delivery should be mailed by December 15, and be sure to mail Christmas cards for nearby destinations at least a week before Christmas.

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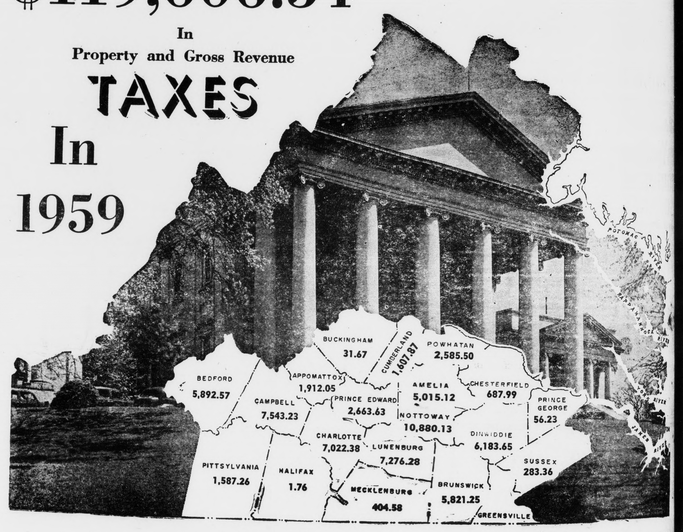

TAXES PAID IN 1959

By The Southside Electric Cooperative To The Counties in Which It Operates

Amelia	$ 5,015.12	Cumberland	1,607.87	Halifax	1.76
Appomattox	1,912.05	Dinwiddie	6,183.65	Lunenburg	7,276.28
Bedford	5,892.57				
Brunswick	5,821.25				
Buckingham	31.67				
Campbell	7,543.23				
Charlotte	7,022.38				
Chesterfield	687.99				

Total Taxes Paid to Local Government	$ 67,484.47
Gross Revenue Taxes Paid in State of Va.	52,121.87
Total Taxes Paid	$119,606.34

Mecklenburg	404.58
Nottoway	10,880.13
Pittsylvania	1,587.26
Prince Edward	2,663.63
Prince George	56.23
Powhatan	2,585.50
Sussex	283.36
Blackstone (Town)	97.8

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Nov. 23.- When Miss was 17, she and her and Mrs. John Gilliam, History to Pamplin. ...rried Jeter Ligon, and ...ke Ligon home for 45 years.

Soon, she will move to Richmond, where she has rented an apartment in the same building in which her sister, Mrs. Lillian Cary, lives. The apartment at 1214 West Franklin Street is ready for her occupancy on Dec. 1.

On Nov. 28, at 10:00 A. M., her remaining household effects will go at public auction.

The 18 Girl Scouts of Pamplin will take advantage of the sale by selling hot food. Their leaders are Mrs. William Chappell and Mrs. Eddie Dickerson.

While hickory logs blazed and sent out pleasant warmth from Mrs. Frank Irving's softly lighted living-room fireside, 15 members of Pamplin Home Demonstration Club relaxed in easy chairs on Thursday afternoon. After Mrs. Henry Terry had thanked God in prayer for his manifold blessings, a motion was made and carried to elect the same officers of 1959. They were declared to have done a good job.

These officers are:
Mrs. Jim Williams, president
Mrs. Edwin Fore, vice-president
Mrs. Eddie Dickerson, secretary, treasurer.

Mrs. Henry Terry had a big surprise on Nov. 5, at the Fall Achievement Day Exercises. She was presented with a pin for having been the very first president of the Appomattox County H. D. Clubs.

Mrs. Rob Martin, a recent county president, was also honored with a pin.

Mrs. Jim Williams, who demonstrated the preparing of stuffed pork chops, stated, "Meat is the most perfect protein-diet."

Mrs. Irving served a delectable salad and dessert plate, with hot coffee.

The December meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. Jim Williams. Christmas foods and decorations will be stressed.

Our newest member, Mrs. Patrick Lair, invited the club to her home for the January meeting.

Very glad is Mrs. Frank Irving that her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Crews, of South Charleston, West Va., will soon move into their cottage, which they are building about half a mile this side of Pamplin.

Mr. R. E. Fore, Jr. and family have moved to their country home near Farmville. Mr. Fore was pleased when he bagged a nice turkey hen near Hixburg this week.

On Sunday morning, off to South Boston Presbyterian Church went seven of the Pioneers that Wilbur Maxwell had trained last year at Walker's Presbyterian Church at Hixburg. They attended the Sunday School Rally where Wilbur is now assistant pastor. Those who went were: Mary Frances and Barbara Goin, Estelle Covington, Betty Taylor, David Phillips, Bradley Baldwin, and George Taylor, now president. They were accompanied by two of their adult advisers, Mrs. Jim Carson and Mrs. Bob Covington.

Up from North Carolina were expected Mrs. W. M. Erwin and son, Sgt. John T. Erwin, of Maine, on Monday to visit her sister, Miss Maggie Hix.

They will stay over to celebrate Miss Maggie's 93rd birthday on November 27.

Mr. N. S. Topping, affectionately known as "Uncle Nate," of Appomattox, will also be 93 on Dec. 4.

Smart Mule

Gravedonna, Italy.- "Take me home, for I'm dying," Luigi Rossotti, 45, ordered a mule on his farm, after climbing on the animal's back. The mule trotted to Rossotti's home, and his wife summoned a doctor. The farmer said after recovering that he made a habit of talking to his mule while working.

Dial 2811 with Personals.

Appomattox is a growing town.

Play safe — drive carefully.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Does the launching of earth satellites promise to have an effect on our weather?

As far as astronomers now visualize, the launching of earth satellites, space platforms or other outer space devices will have no noticeable effect on the earth's weather.

There are means visualized for controlling weather in future wars, and there are theories as to how weather might be controlled. But these methods deal with altitudes of 40,000 feet and under — where clouds are found .. and are not concerned with outer space, and such distances as 250 miles up, which is the nearest point to the earth in the trajectory of the Russian satellite.

FROZEN ASSET

Houston—Thieves stole $1,300 in cold cash from Monte Ray Petti. The victim told police he had hidden the money in a deep-freezer set at five degrees below zero in his frozen food plant in Houston.

AVERAGE FAMILY'S FOOD COST IS $28 WEEKLY IN SOUTH

The average United States homemaker dips into her purse for $32 each week to feed a family of four.

Miss Janet Cameron, nutritionist at VPI, says that following the U. S. Department of Agriculture's moderate-cost food budget plan, food economists estimate food cost to average about $34 in the North-east, $33 in the west, $31 in the North-Central, and $28 in the South.

Virginia homemakers report the spending of $24 to $50 for food for four in a week, depending mainly on the cuts of meat they select. Of course, all families now buy more prepared foods - mixes, frozen foods, prepared meats — Miss Cameron says. Hence total food prices seem high partly because much food is already processed before it reaches the kitchen.

Any homemaker can save on food costs if she buys carefully, Miss Cameron says. Here are a few hints. Buy in quantity. Use homemade bread and pastry mixes. Try different brands. Use less expensive cuts of meat. Use dry and canned milk. Study special sales. Use day - old bread. Don't buy food in fancy containers.

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Wisdom of the Ages

"Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself."

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